

REMARKS

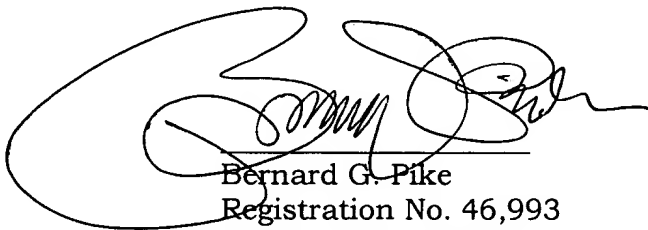
35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1, 5-7, 9-17, and 21-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In the Office Action, the Examiner suggests claim amendments that would overcome these rejections. Applicants have herein incorporated the suggestions of the Examiner substantially as presented in the Office Action. Reconsideration of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a diligent effort to fully respond to all the concerns and comments of the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in the subject application. If the Examiner has any concerns regarding Applicants' present response, he is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below so that those concerns may be expeditiously addressed.

Respectfully submitted,



Bernard G. Pike
Registration No. 46,993
Attorney for Applicants

KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART LLP
Henry W. Oliver Building
535 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2312

Telephone: (412) 355-8620
Facsimile: (412) 355-6501

Customer No.: 41,835